

BOOK NOTICES

LORRAINE DASTON and KATHARINE PARK. 1997. *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150–1750*. (ISBN 0-942299-90-6, hbk.). Zone Books, 611 Broadway, Suite 608, New York, NY 10012. Distributed by MIT Press, Cambridge, MA. \$34.00. 511 pp., illustrated.

From dustjacket: "*Wonders and the Order of Nature* is about the ways in which European naturalists from the High Middle Ages through the enlightenment used wonder and wonders, the passion and its objects, to envision themselves and the natural world. Monsters, gems that shone in the dark, petrifying springs, celestial apparitions—these were the marvels that adorned romances, puzzled philosophers, lured collectors, and frightened the devout. Drawing on the histories of art, science, philosophy, and literature, Lorraine Daston and Katharine Park explore and explain how wonder and wonders fortified princely power, remove the texture of scientific experience, and shaped the sensibility of intellectuals. This is a history of the passions of inquiry, of how wonder sometimes inflamed, sometimes dampened curiosity about nature's best-kept secrets. Refracted through the prism of wonders, the order of nature splinters into a spectrum of orders, a tour of possible worlds."

Contents for *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150–1750*: Preface, Introduction: At the Limit, The Topography of Wonder, The Properties of Things, Wonder Among the Philosophers, Marvelous Particulars, Monsters: A Case Study, Strange Facts, Wonders of Art, Wonders of Nature, The Passions of Inquiry, The Enlightenment and the Anti-Marvelous, Epilogue, Photo Credits, Notes, Bibliography, and Index.

ADEL JALILI and ZIBA JAMZAD. 1999. *Red Data Book of Iran. A Preliminary Survey of Endemic, Rare & Endangered Plant Species in Iran*. With Contributions from S.C. Shaw, A.A. Maassoumi, U. Assri, N. Mazhari and A. Rahmanpour. (ISBN 964-473-061-5, hbk.) Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, P.O. Box 13185-116, Tehran, IRAN. Iran 85000 R; Outside \$100.00. 748 pp., 85 mostly color drawings and a few color photos.

Iran supports a total of around 8,000 plant species, and is one of the major centers of endemism (1,727 endemic in Iran) in that part of the world. The total number of listed taxa based on defined IUCN categories, endemics, vulnerable, and endangered is 2,405. For the category Vulnerable, 432 taxa are listed and 21 listed for Endangered. Contents for *Red Data Book of Iran. A Preliminary Survey of Endemic, Rare & Endangered Plant Species in Iran*: List of Figures, Introduction, The Phytogeographical Regions of Iran, Data Collection and Analysis, Results and Discussion, Concluding Remarks, Species Description, Appendix I, References, and Index. For each species, the following information is provided: Status (Endangered, Vulnerable, Lower Risk, Data Deficient); Life Form; Distribution; and Habitat. The book is printed on quality paper and the color paintings and photos are very nice.